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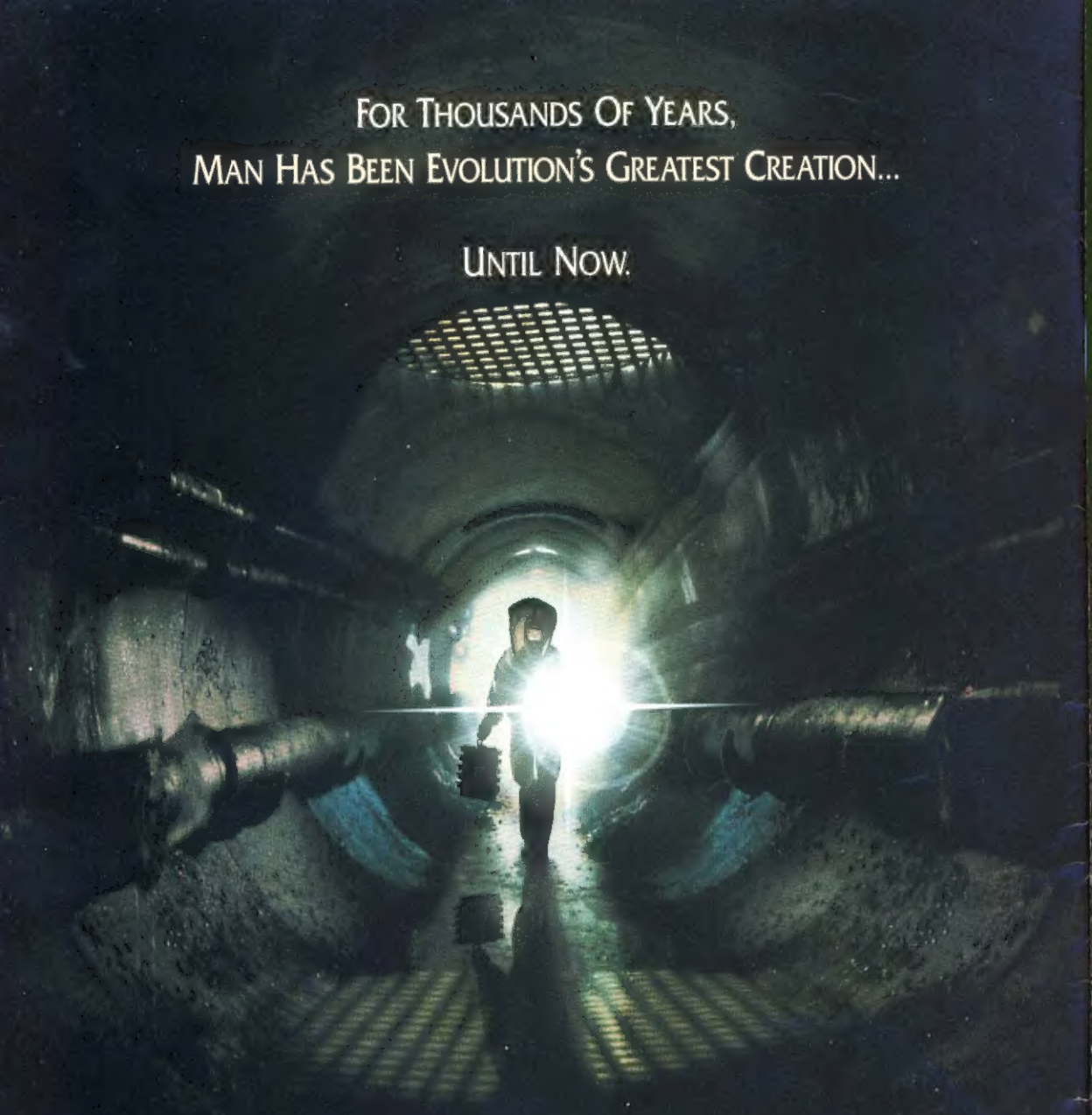

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DEADPOOL

The action from DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97 continues! 'POOL and that split-personality vixen, TYPHOID MARY, return to the mean cobblestone streets of Boston! Plus, more dirt is dished on the mysterious GERRY! Don't miss it! By JOE KELLY and ED MCGUINNESS! #8

CONAN

The muscle-twisting, flesh-ripping, sword-swingin' conclusion of this one-of-a-kind limited series! See CONAN in action as never before! By ROLAND GREEN and CLAUDIO CASTELLINI! #3 of 3

SILVER SURFER

The SURFER sets off in search of the sure-to-be-startling secret behind the mysterious disappearance of ZENN-LA! Will he also discover the reason for the loss of his emotions? By J.M. DEMATTEIS and RON GARNEY! #131

VENOM: SIGN OF THE BOSS

VENOM vs. GHOST RIDER! The U.S. government sends Venom to the Bronx to lay waste to some terrorist butt — but Ghosty's got other plans for the toothy trespasser! By IVAN VELEZ, JR. and TOM DERENICK! #1 of 2

THE ESSENTIAL SPIDER-MAN

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #'s 21-43 and SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #'s 2 and 3, together in stark, stunning black and white! Throw out your dictionary to make room for this one if you have to! By STAN LEE, STEVE DITKO and JOHN ROMITA! VOL. 2

GAMBIT

GAMBIT heads for Miami, home of sun, sand, skimpy swimsuits... and a seamy Cuban underworld! The X-MEN's ace-in-the-deck quickly finds himself sucked into a world of angels and devils — what better way to find redemption for his past sins? By HOWARD MACKIE and KLAUS JANSON! #1 of 4

X-MEN UNLIMITED

BANSHEE and the WHITE QUEEN get into a hot 'n' heavy argument over whether humans should be allowed scholarship opportunities at the Xavier Institute! They better join forces quick, though — or BASTION may make their decision for them! By BEN RAAB and MELVIN RUBI! #16

STAR TREK: EARLY VOYAGES

DR. BOYCE is sent to the planet of Neyda Prime to help contain a deadly plague, but instead sends one of his patients to his grave... on purpose! And it's on video-tape! What's the terrifying secret that made the good doctor turn his back on the Hippocratic Oath? By DAN ABNETT, IAN EDGINTON and PATRICK ZIRCHER! #8

MARVEL ONLINE Avail. JULY 30

SPIDER-MAN CYBERCOMIC STORYLINE

Part One! Someone has targeted Osborn Industries for destruction — and SPIDER-MAN fears it could be his worst enemy, back from the dead! By GLENN GREENBERG, PAT CHAU and MARK BADGER! #13

ITEM! Marvel's beneficent bookkeeper, the magnificent MILLIE SHURIFF, celebrated her forty-first anniversary with the House of Ideas on June 5th! Millie, who makes sure every Marvel freelancer gets paid for his or her work in a speedy fashion come heck or high water, received a bouquet of white roses and a standing ovation from editor in chief BOB HARRAS and his merry band of Bullpenners! Then it was off to lunch at the ever-popular Park Avenue Country Club, where editors fought like cats and dogs over who would sit next to the guest of honor! What words of wisdom did the most popular woman at Marvel have to offer on this hallowed occasion? "Go away," said Millie firmly as she peeped out from behind her flowers, "before you make me cry!"

ITEM! Summer heats up like tinfoil in a microwave as GAMBIT takes on the Devil in the new GAMBIT four-issue limited series, the first issue of which goes on sale next week! That's right, we're not speaking metaphorically here — New Orleans's infamous X-Man actually tangles with Ol' Scratch himself! When a "fallen angel" crashes to Earth, she seeks out Gambit, who is seeking redemption himself for his own past sins. She hopes he'll have the strength and courage to get her to the Vatican before the forces of evil capture her soul. Will Gambit walk with the angels... or will he rush headlong into a potentially terminal tryst with the dark side? Written by HOWARD "Hot Enough For Ya?" MACKIE, the GAMBIT limited series features art by the incomparable KLAUS JANSON! So go ahead and deal yourself in on GAMBIT #1 next week — we guarantee the deck is stacked in your favor!

CREATOR PROFILE: TODD DEZAGO

What he writes: SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN. Also wrote STRONG GUY REBORN (still on the stands, kids!)

First Marvel job: X-FACTOR #103

First ever job: Shovelin' you-know-what on a dairy farm!

Worst job: Selling impostor perfumes at one of those carts in a Los Angeles mall! My sales pitch consisted of trying to talk people out of buying the stuff!

Worst pick-up line ever used on a potential date: "I've been sitting over here undressing you with my eyes, but I'm having trouble with that top button."

Closest he's ever been to prison: I was once stopped for doing 80 in a 30 mph zone. I told the cop I'd just broken up with my girlfriend and he let me go.

Closest he's ever been to heaven: As a kid, my friends and I were sitting in cars in a junkyard playing Indy 500 when the owner came out and shot at us.

Fave TV shows: *X-Files*, *Seinfeld*, Letterman, Conan and *Friends*.

Best Friend: Lisa Kudrow. I identify with her!

Worst Friend: Ross' hair!

Most looked-forward-to summer movie: *Men in Black*!

Most recent record purchase: The *Austin Powers* soundtrack, baby!

Most embarrassing moment of his life: When I was little and I was walking past the tough, older boys of our very small town with my mom, the button on my jacket caught on the fence and I fell flat on my back. Because she knew it was important to me, my mom tried really hard not to laugh until we were around the corner. She was all red and crying from the effort.

Influences: Jimmy Stewart, Groucho Marx, and my dad, Rodeo Frank!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hi, Heroes!

Here's the latest Bu!pen joke: A fan called Marvel begging us to give my Soapboxes a book of their own. We asked him, "Is it because you can't get enough of them?" "Nah," he replied, "it's so I won't have to see the blamed things in every blamed title I buy!" (Okay, so he didn't say "blamed." I cleaned it up for you. But he better not hold his breath waiting for a No-Prize!)

And, speaking of the most coveted prize in all of prizedom, fickle Fortune hath favored Christopher Currie of Detroit, MI, for our first award, for asking:

"Izzit true that movies about the Black Panther and Luke Cage are being developed?"

Sure is, Chris! Now that he's finished "Blade the Vampire Hunter," Wesley Snipes is sharpening his claws in preparation for playing the legendary Chief of the Wakandas! As for Luke Cage, the screenplay's being written and John Singleton is slated to direct!

Our next nationally acclaimed No-Prize goes to Steven Pearlman of Verona, NJ, who wistfully inquires:

"Marvel has some great heroes, but do we really need so many titles about Spider-Man and the X-Men?"

Don't ask us, Steve – it's you readers who have the answer! The more you buy, the more we've gotta print! Remember, comics follow the law of supply and demand. What Marveldom wants, we haveta supply!

This ish's final award is snared by Elizabeth Kovesy of Shelton, CT, who asks:

"Since Cyclops wears a ruby rad visor, does he see everything in shades of red?"

Think about it, Liz – if you wear green sunglasses, you don't see the world in green; things are just softly shaded for you, right? Ol' Cyke sees color just as we do, only better, 'cause the quartz sharpens everything. Of course, that's just a guess, since the selfish guy never let me peek through his visor!

Now, while our No-Prize Laureates attend their nationally televised victory celebration, I beg thee to dry thine eyes, for as surely as Captain America hath funny little wingies upon his noble head, so surely shall we meet again when the newest Marvels goeth on sale!

Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee

Y'oughta know it by heart by now, but in case you forgot, our address is "Stan's Soapbox," c/o BULLPEN BULLETINS, Marvel Comics, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. So write now – don't keep your No-Prize waiting!

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ELEKTRA

Bad girl. Rejected by the light. Elektra is a new super-heroine on the verge, using her superior martial arts skills to fight her way towards redemption.

Elektra once defined herself by the men in her life: daughter of a powerful Greek diplomat who was assassinated, and girlfriend of Matt Murdock, aka the super hero Daredevil. When tragedy struck and her father was killed, Elektra fell into the darkness.

As a member of the Hand, she used her powerful martial arts abilities to become a master assassin. Now, she's torn between her blood lust...and redemption!

STICK

A member of the Chaste, and one-time trainer and mentor to Daredevil, Stick has been playing the same role for Elektra.

NINA

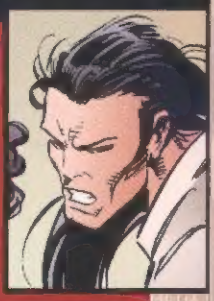
Elektra's roommate, an orphan whose father was killed accidentally during a battle between Elektra and Bullseye. Elektra feels responsible for her, and empathizes with her as well.

MACKINLAY STEWART

Partner with King of the Dojo Elektra helps fund and run, he is Elektra's current love interest.

KING LAU

A native of Hong Kong, King was on the brink of martial arts superstardom when he left the country under mysterious circumstances. He is now Matt's partner at the Dojo.



DAREDEVIL

Elektra's first, and greatest, love. Her old college boyfriend, he saved Elektra's life but couldn't save her father's. Elektra could never feel the same about him after that.

PREVIOUSLY IN ELEKTRA

Elektra faces four new assassins who've blown into town—the Four Winds!

The deadly quartet are out to kill a thug informer whom Elektra has been hired to protect by the police.

But somebody's duped the cops, and "Pig" Malone is really the killer, not the stoolie informer.

Elektra sees to it that "Pig" takes a fall—literally.

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- ☐ DDP Deadpool
- ☐ EXC Excalibur
- ☐ GEN Generation X
- ☐ XME Uncanny X-Men
- ☐ WOL Wolverine
- ☐ FAC X-Factor
- ☐ XFO X-Force
- ☐ MAN X-Man
- ☐ MEN X-Men

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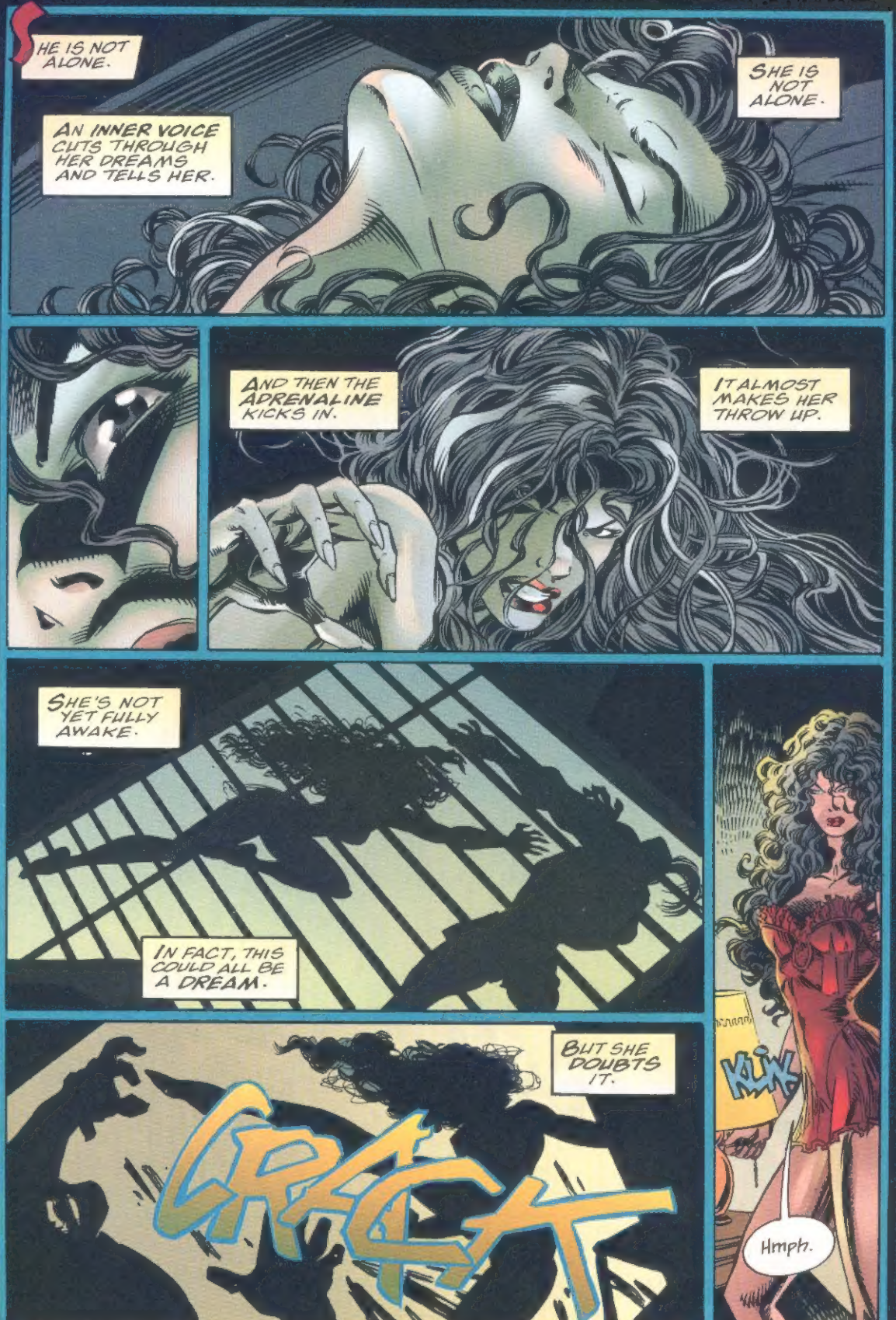

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ELEKTRA! YOU FELL ASLEEP! I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU!
I THINK YOU DID.
STAN LEE PRESENTS
FLOWERS & FLAMETHROWERS
PETER MILLIGAN WRITER
MIKE DEODATO JR. ARTIST
SCOTT KOBLISH INKS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
&
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF

ouch.
Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES SLEEPING WITH YOU IS LIKE BEDDING DOWN WITH A TIGRESS.
DO I HEAR ANY COMPLAINTS?

NOT FROM ME.
SAY, WHY DON'T YOU STAY THE NIGHT? WE CAN CATCH SOME BREAK-FAST.
I TOLD YOU, I ALWAYS SLEEP ALONE.
THOSE SCRATCHES ON YOUR FACE SHOULD TELL YOU WHY.

HIS NAME IS MCKINLEY STEWART.
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES. I'D JUST LIKE...

LOOK, IF THE ARRANGEMENT DOESN'T SUIT YOU, WE'LL CALL IT--
Oh--
--I DON'T KNOW WE'LL SEE, MAC.
SEE YOU AT THE DOJO.

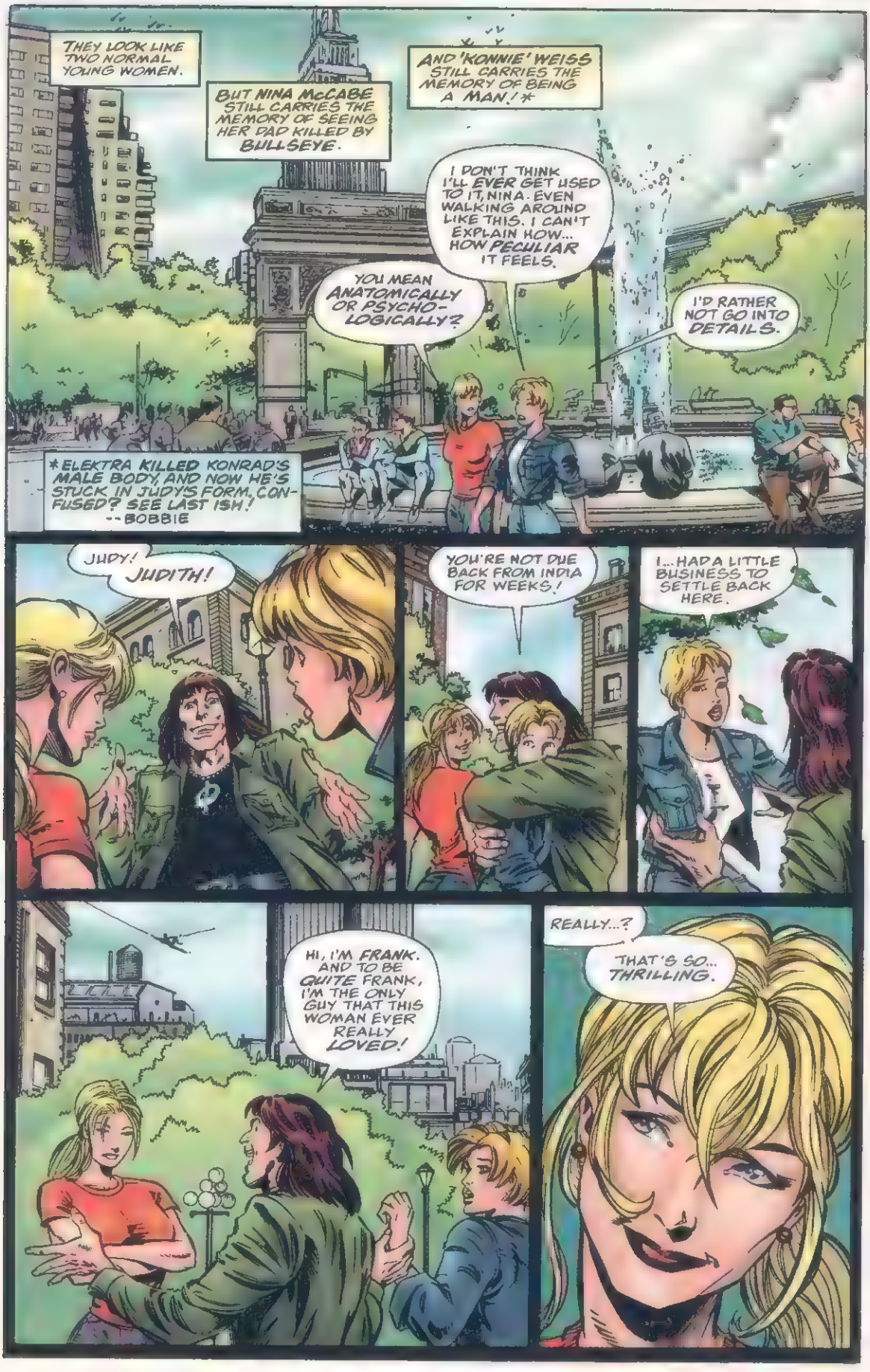
SOON...
SO, ARE YOU STAYING DOWN HERE--
--OR COMING UP, LOGAN?
YOU SAW ME WAITING?
I SMELLED YOU A BLOCK AWAY, MY FRIEND.
WHAT WAS IT? MY AFTER-SHAVE, OR MY ANIMAL CHARISMA?
A LITTLE BIT OF BOTH.
YA KNOW? I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU, WATCHES THE WOMAN KNOWN AS ELEKTRA.
THOUGH HE HAS FOUGHT ALONGSIDE HER IN THE PAST, RECENT EVENTS HAVE MADE HIM QUESTION HER.
MOST OF ALL, HE LONGS FOR PEACE AND TRANQUILITY...
THE SIMPLE LIFE OF A FISHERMAN IN CHINA.
BUT HE FEARS THAT ELEKTRA IS IN SOME WAY STILL BOUND TO THE HAND.
AND UNTIL HE KNOWS THE TRUTH, HE CAN NOT RETURN TO CHINA.
AND CAN KNOW NO PEACE.

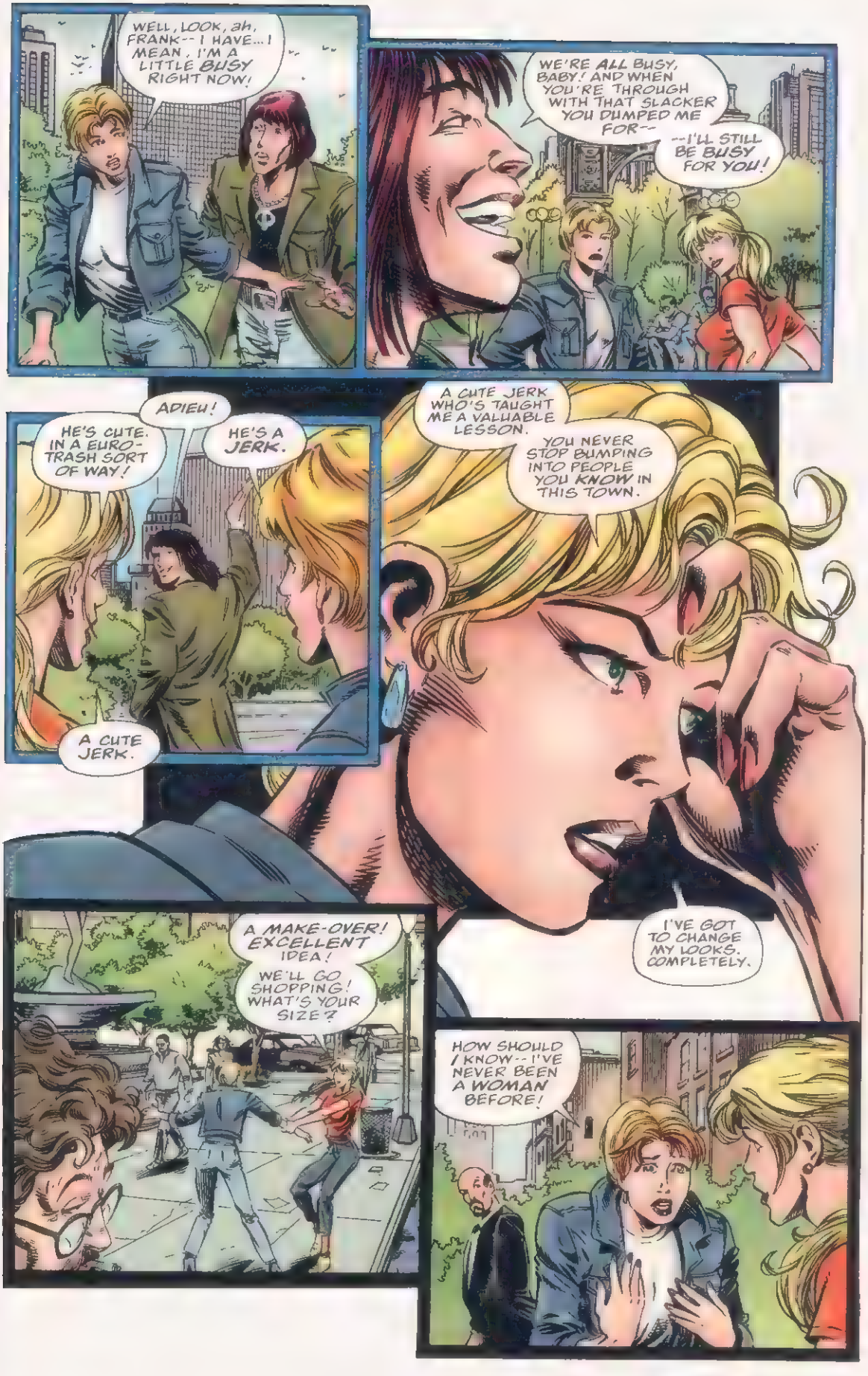
"...IF THE ARRANGEMENT DOESN'T SUIT YOU, WE'LL CALL IT OFF"? YOU MUST BE READING TOO MUCH ROMANTIC FICTION, ELEKTRA.
I SUPPOSE I WAS A LITTLE... DIRECT.
IF YOU WANNA DUMP HIM, YOU SHOULD JUST SAY SO.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO. MAC IS DECENT AND KIND.
AND HE'S TRUST-WORTHY. AND GOOD COMPANY.
WHAT'S HIS MIDDLE NAME? LASSIE?
FOR THAT, YOU CAN GO.
ALL JOKING ASIDE, I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON INSIDE THAT HEAD OF YOURS.
Oh, SOME-HOW I DOUBT THAT, LOGAN.

SINCE YOU WERE REBORN, YOU'VE HAD TO RELEARN HOW TO DO STUFF THAT OTHER PEOPLE TAKE FOR GRANTED.
NOW, IF A GUY COMES AT YOU WITH A FLAME-THROWER, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. YOU ARE TOTALLY IN CONTROL.
BUT--IF THAT SAME GUY COMES AT YOU WITH FLOWERS... YOU'RE ALL AT SEA.
OKAY, I GET IT. YOU TELL ME YOU NEED TO BE ALONE AT NIGHT.
WHAT YOU MEAN IS YOU WANT TO BE ALONE WITH WHISKERS, HERE.
HEY, THAT'S MISTER WHISKERS TO YOU.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU LIKED CUT FLOWERS, ANYHOW.
I DON'T, REALLY THEY WERE SENT TO ME BY--
--MAC!
I JUST CALLED AROUND TO...

AN' YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL SHE EVEN LOOKS AT YOU, BUB!
AND WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
I'M THE NEW BREED OF RELATIONSHIP COUNSELOR.
BOYS.
C'MON, LASSIE. LET'S SEE IF YOU THINK SHE'S WORTH FIGHTING FOR!
NOT A BAD RIGHT.
KAPP!
LIKE IT? THEN YOU'LL JUST LOVE THE LEFT!

MAC, I WILL NOT HAVE YOU FIGHTING OVER ME.
HE'S JUST AN OLD FRIEND.
SORRY FOR MAKING SUCH A JERK OF MYSELF.
ACTING LIKE A JEALOUS KID...
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. I WAS JUST TESTING THE GUY'S METTLE.
HE'S OKAY.
WHY, THANK YOU FOR THE ENDORSE-MENT.
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
NICE MEETIN' YA, BUB.
GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE, O-SENSEI!

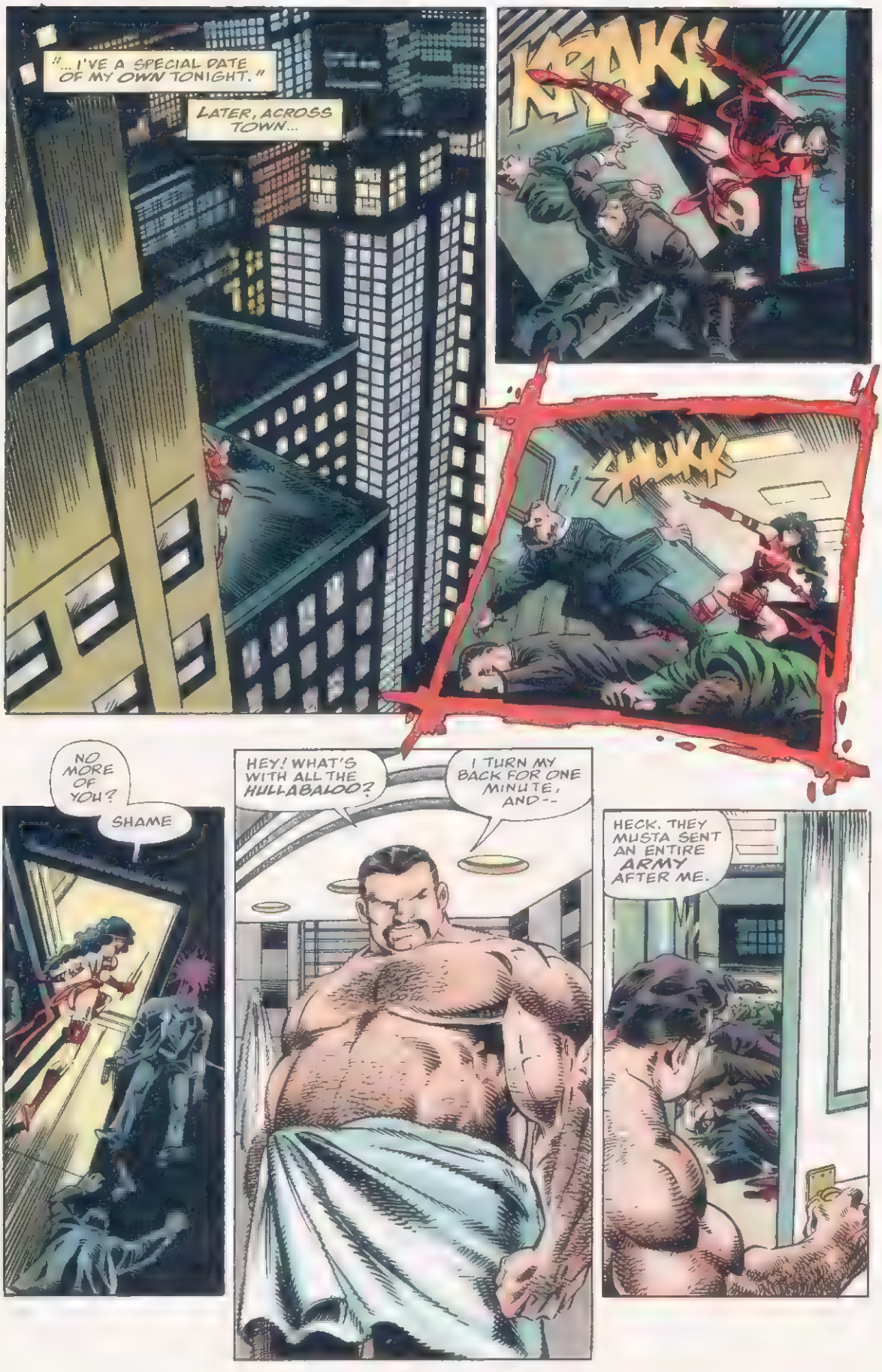

THEY LOOK LIKE TWO NORMAL YOUNG WOMEN.
BUT NINA McCABE STILL CARRIES THE MEMORY OF SEEING HER DAD KILLED BY BULLSEYE.
AND 'KONNIE' WEISS STILL CARRIES THE MEMORY OF BEING A MAN! *
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET USED TO IT, NINA. EVEN WALKING AROUND LIKE THIS. I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW... HOW PECULIAR IT FEELS.
YOU MEAN ANATOMICALLY OR PSYCHO-LOGICALLY?
I'D RATHER NOT GO INTO DETAILS.
* ELEKTRA KILLED KONRAD'S MALE BODY, AND NOW HE'S STUCK IN JUDY'S FORM. CONFUSED? SEE LAST ISH! --BOBBIE
JUDY! JUDITH!
YOU'RE NOT DUE BACK FROM INDIA FOR WEEKS!
I... HAD A LITTLE BUSINESS TO SETTLE BACK HERE.
HI, I'M FRANK. AND TO BE QUITE FRANK, I'M THE ONLY GUY THAT THIS WOMAN EVER REALLY LOVED!
REALLY...?
THAT'S SO... THRILLING.


WELL, LOOK, ah, FRANK-- I HAVE... I MEAN, I'M A LITTLE BUSY RIGHT NOW!
WE'RE ALL BUSY, BABY! AND WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH WITH THAT SLACKER YOU DUMPED ME FOR--
--I'LL STILL BE BUSY FOR YOU!
ADIEU!
HE'S CUTE. IN A EURO-TRASH SORT OF WAY!
HE'S A JERK.
A CUTE JERK.
A CUTE JERK WHO'S TAUGHT ME A VALUABLE LESSON.
YOU NEVER STOP BUMPING INTO PEOPLE YOU KNOW IN THIS TOWN.
I'VE GOT TO CHANGE MY LOOKS. COMPLETELY.
A MAKE-OVER! EXCELLENT IDEA!
WE'LL GO SHOPPING! WHAT'S YOUR SIZE?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW-- I'VE NEVER BEEN A WOMAN BEFORE!

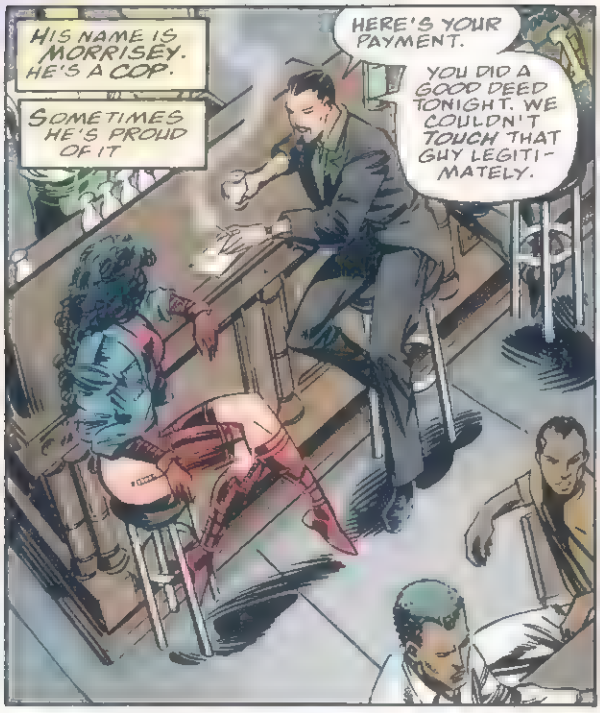
SIX STORES, FIVE PIERCINGS AND A FEW TAPE MEASURES LATER...
CAN I SAY SOMETHING, KONNIE?
GO AHEAD.
YOU RULE!
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE GONE FOR THAT DKNY BUSINESSWOMAN WITH A TOUCH OF CHIC LOOK.
MIGHT GO DOWN BETTER AT THE THEATER.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE NEVER DRESSED UP AS A GIRL BEFORE?
DON'T PUSH IT, NINA.
THEY ENTER THE DOJO--
--WHERE ELEKTRA BEGINS THEIR TRAINING...
AND NOW, YUAN JIAO...
...AUE-LIANG JIAO...
...HU JIAO...
...BANG JIAO...
I CAN'T EVEN PRONOUNCE THIS STUFF, LET ALONE DO IT!

..FINALLY, DA HU YUAN JIAO!
THESE ARE THE BASIC FOOT TECHNIQUES IN KUNG FU. WE'LL START YOU GIRLS WITH SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE SIMPLE.
OR PERHAPS WE COULD CALL ON SENSEI LAU'S SERVICES.
I'D BE DELIGHTED TO ASSIST YOU.
MAC NOT WITH YOU?
I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE HAD THE INESTIMABLE PLEASURE OF AN INTRO-DUCTION.
HELLO, KONNIE.
HE'S. HE'S WORKING AT A PROJECT IN BED STUY.
THIS IS KONRA...
KONNIE.

NO!
I AM NOT IN ANY SENSE OF THE WORD OR WORDS READY FOR THAT. NOT THAT. NOT YET.
DON'T GET YOUR BRAND NEW KNICKERS IN A TWIST, KONNIE.
KING ONLY ASKED YOU OUT TO DINNER.
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND! I AM A SPY!
I'M A COLD WAR OPERATIVE IN THE SEX WAR-- CAUGHT BEHIND ENEMY LINES! I'M UNDER COVER. I'M AN IMPOSTER!
I DON'T EVEN SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE PROPERLY!
SO GET HIM TO ORDER THE FOOD!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR KONNIE TO START LEARNING TO BE A WOMAN?
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
THAT REMINDS ME. YOU GET A CAB HOME...


"...I'VE A SPECIAL DATE OF MY OWN TONIGHT."
LATER, ACROSS TOWN...
KRAK!
KRAK!
NO MORE OF YOU?
SHAME
HEY! WHAT'S WITH ALL THE HULLABALOO?
I TURN MY BACK FOR ONE MINUTE, AND--
HECK. THEY MUSTA SENT AN ENTIRE ARMY AFTER ME.

HEY!!
FEELING A LITTLE-- EXPOSED?
I'LL BE BRIEF.
YOU HAVE BEEN BURNING DOWN TENEMENTS IN THE BARRIO. YOU HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HOSPITALIZATION OF SEVERAL WELFARE FAMILIES. YOU RUN SEVERAL EXTORTION RACKETS.
AND TODAY IS YOUR LUCKY DAY...
...BECAUSE I'M GIVING YOU ONE HOUR TO PACK YOUR BAGS AND LEAVE TOWN.
IF I HEAR OF YOU AGAIN I SHALL COME AFTER YOU...
...AND IF I DO...
...YOU'LL LOSE MORE THAN A BATH TOWEL. AND ONE MORE THING...
WH-WH-WHAT?
DON'T FORGET TO WASH BEHIND YOUR EARS.

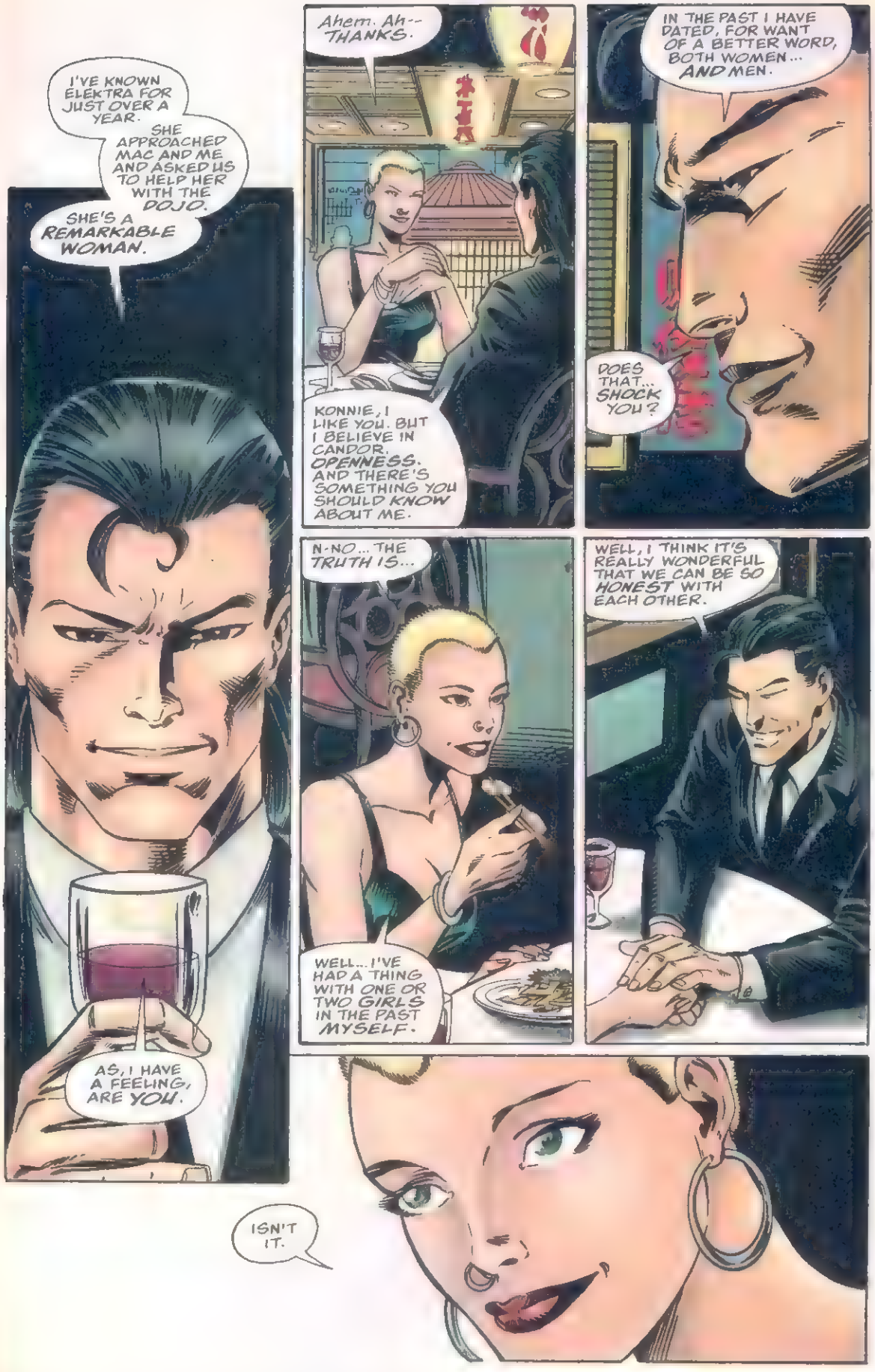

HIS NAME IS MORRISEY. HE'S A COP.
SOMETIMES HE'S PROUD OF IT
HERE'S YOUR PAYMENT.
YOU DID A GOOD DEED TONIGHT. WE COULDN'T TOUCH THAT GUY LEGITIMATELY.

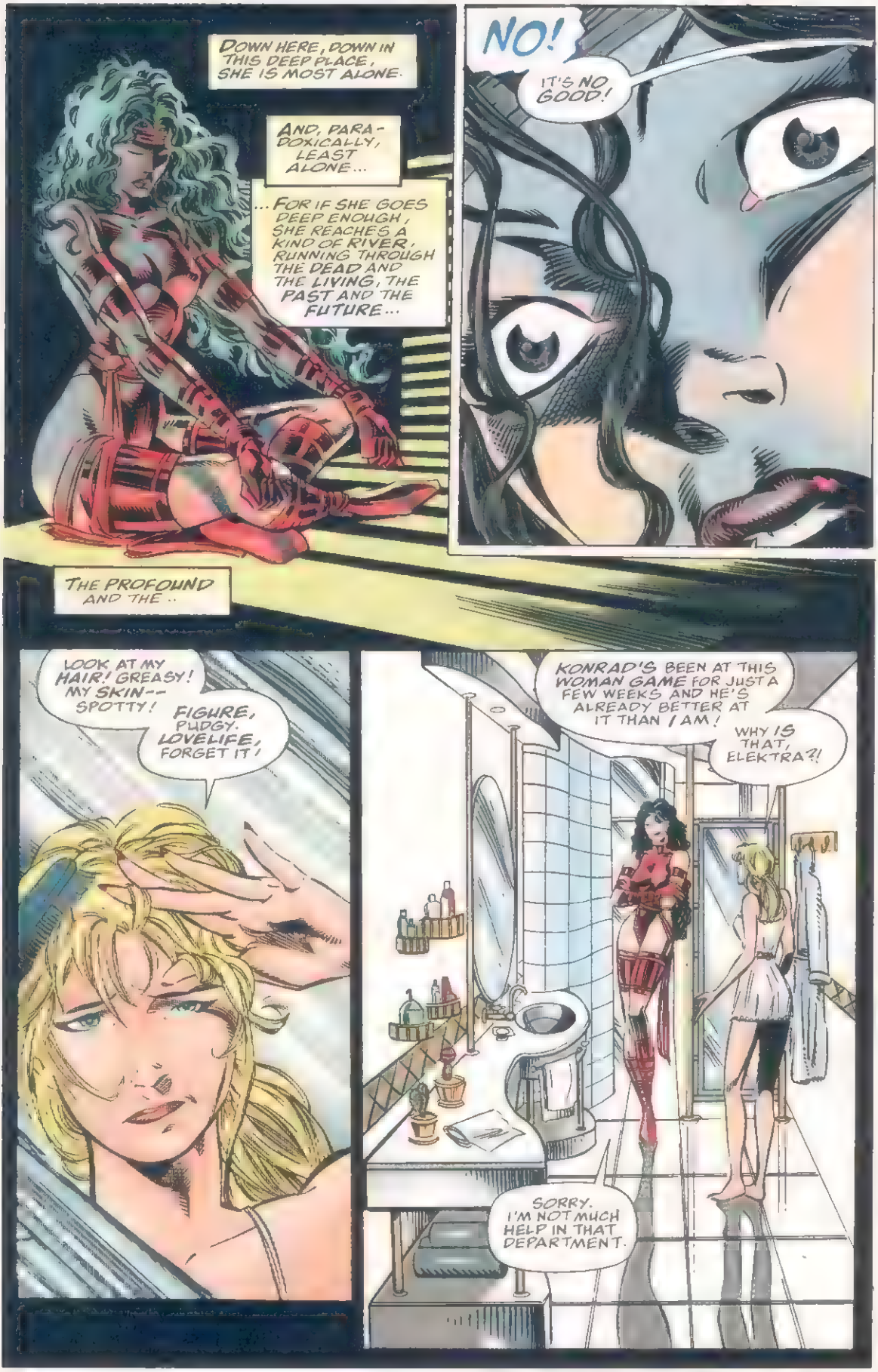
I HATE ALL THIS UNDERHAND VIGILANTE STUFF. BUT IT'S A DIRTY WORLD, AND YOU GOTTA GET DIRTY TOO IF YOU WANT RESULTS.

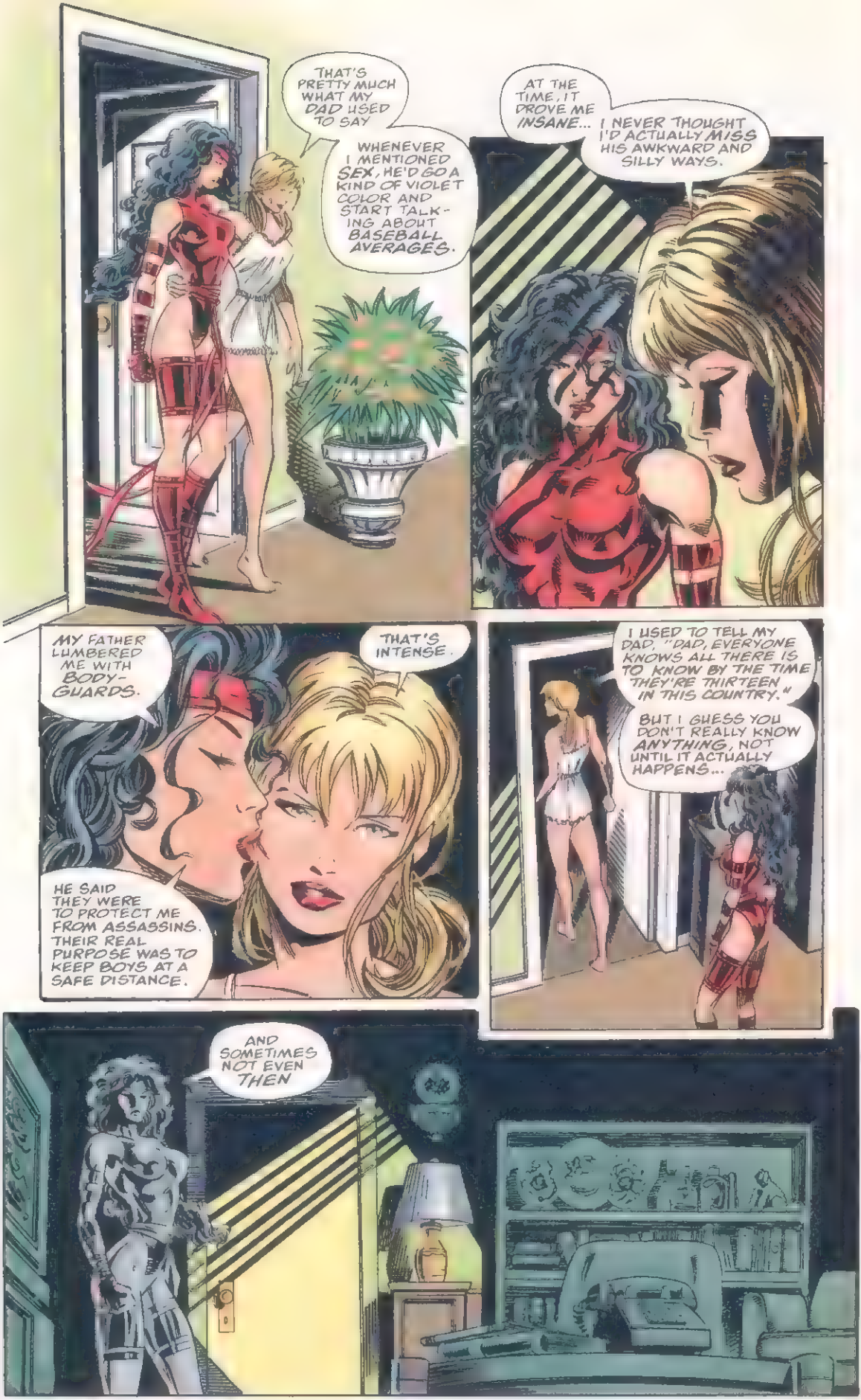
ELEKTRA, COULD I... SEE YOU SOME TIME..?
YOU'RE SEEING ME NOW.
I MEAN, NOT ON BUSINESS.
I NEVER MIX PLEASURE WITH BUSINESS.

SO YOU ADMIT... DATING ME WOULD BE A PLEASURE?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT I DID TONIGHT WAS PLEASURE.
THE REST IS JUST BUSINESS.
GOOD NIGHT, OFFICER MORRISEY.

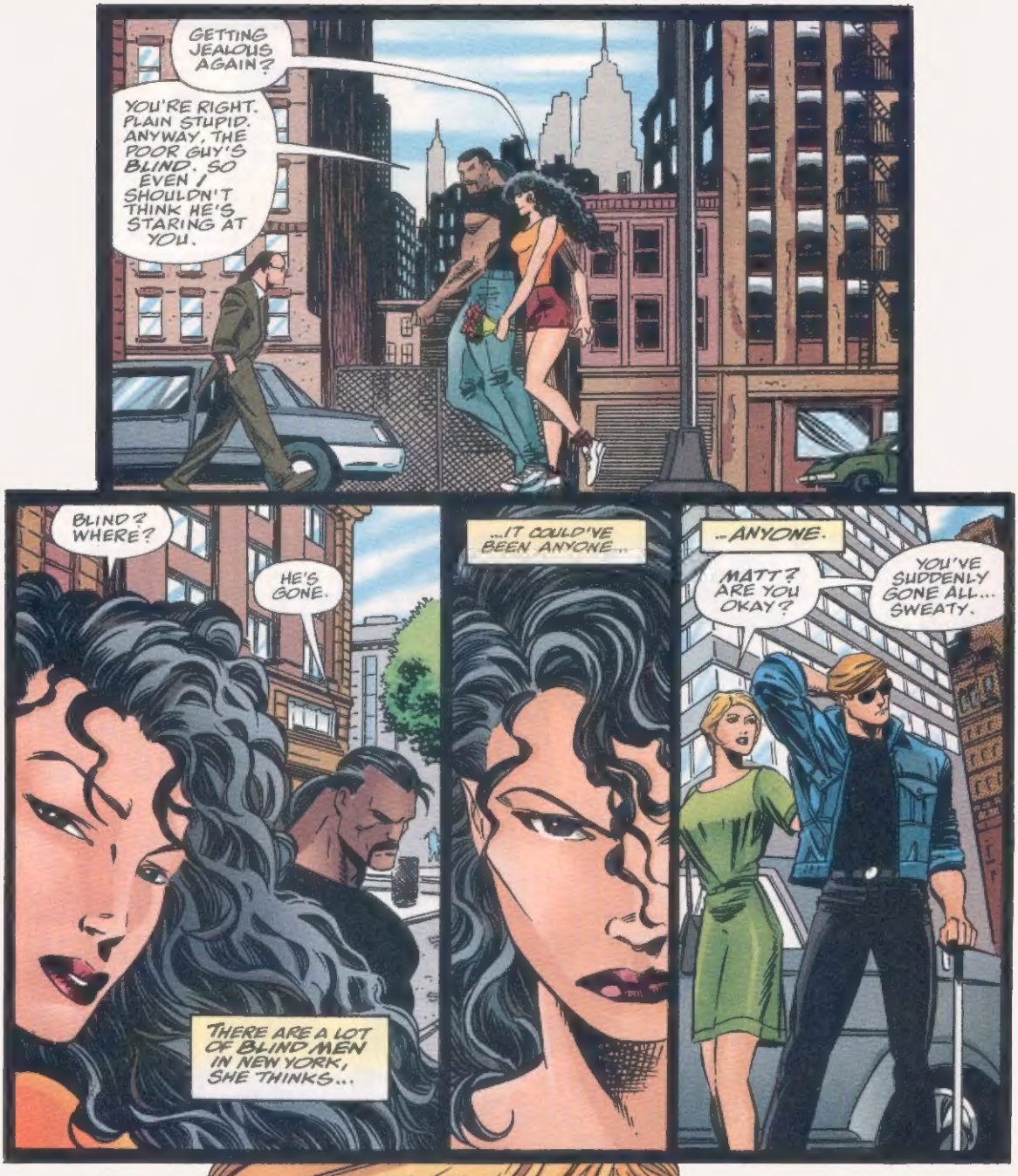

I'VE KNOWN ELEKTRA FOR JUST OVER A YEAR.
SHE APPROACHED MAC AND ME AND ASKED US TO HELP HER WITH THE DOJO.
SHE'S A REMARKABLE WOMAN.
AS, I HAVE A FEELING, ARE YOU.
Ahem. Ah-- THANKS.
KONNIE, I LIKE YOU. BUT I BELIEVE IN CANDOR. OPENNESS. AND THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME.
IN THE PAST I HAVE DATED, FOR WANT OF A BETTER WORD, BOTH WOMEN... AND MEN.
DOES THAT... SHOCK YOU?
N-NO... THE TRUTH IS...
WELL... I'VE HAD A THING WITH ONE OR TWO GIRLS IN THE PAST MYSELF.
WELL, I THINK IT'S REALLY WONDERFUL THAT WE CAN BE SO HONEST WITH EACH OTHER.
ISN'T IT.


DOWN HERE, DOWN IN THIS DEEP PLACE, SHE IS MOST ALONE.
AND, PARADOXICALLY, LEAST ALONE...
...FOR IF SHE GOES DEEP ENOUGH, SHE REACHES A KIND OF RIVER, RUNNING THROUGH THE DEAD AND THE LIVING, THE PAST AND THE FUTURE...
NO!
IT'S NO GOOD!
THE PROFOUND AND THE ..
LOOK AT MY HAIR! GREASY! MY SKIN-- SPOTTY!
FIGURE, PUDGY. LOVELIFE, FORGET IT!
KONRAD'S BEEN AT THIS WOMAN GAME FOR JUST A FEW WEEKS AND HE'S ALREADY BETTER AT IT THAN I AM!
WHY IS THAT, ELEKTRA?!
SORRY. I'M NOT MUCH HELP IN THAT DEPARTMENT.


THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT MY DAD USED TO SAY
WHENEVER I MENTIONED SEX, HE'D GO A KIND OF VIOLET COLOR AND START TALKING ABOUT BASEBALL AVERAGES.
AT THE TIME, IT DROVE ME INSANE...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D ACTUALLY MISS HIS AWKWARD AND SILLY WAYS.
MY FATHER LUMBERED ME WITH BODY-GUARDS.
THAT'S INTENSE.
HE SAID THEY WERE TO PROTECT ME FROM ASSASSINS. THEIR REAL PURPOSE WAS TO KEEP BOYS AT A SAFE DISTANCE.
I USED TO TELL MY DAD, "DAD, EVERYONE KNOWS ALL THERE IS TO KNOW BY THE TIME THEY'RE THIRTEEN IN THIS COUNTRY."
BUT I GUESS YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING, NOT UNTIL IT ACTUALLY HAPPENS...
AND SOMETIMES NOT EVEN THEN

MONKS AND GURUS HAVE EXPERIENCED IT, MAD POETS AND DOOMED LOVERS, TOO. THEY WERE PROBABLY ANNOYED BY IT.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, NO MATTER HOW BLEAK THE PREVIOUS EVENING'S MOOD MIGHT'VE BEEN, NO MATTER HOW LONG AND DARK THE SOUL'S JOURNEY THROUGH DARKNESS WAS...
...A FEW HOURS' SLEEP AND ON AN EMPTY STOMACH, REALLY DO MAKE THE WORLD SEEM A LESS TERRIBLE PLACE...
WONDER HOW KONNIE'S FIRST DATE AS A WOMAN WENT?
GOTTA SPEAK TO HIM. I MEAN HER.
SEE ABOUT ME WORKING AT THE THEATER.
TIME I STARTED DOING SOME-THING...
THANKS...
ELEKTRA? THAT ISN'T YOUR HAND.
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR COFFEE?
JUST THE WAY IT COMES.

LATER...
Restaurant
I'M SORRY ABOUT... WANTING MORE. GETTING JEALOUS. I HATE THE WAY I GET SO JEALOUS. IT'S LIKE A LITTLE SWITCH INSIDE ME...
FORGET IT. NONE OF US ARE PERFECT.
THAT'S IT. I JUST KEEP PRESUMING YOU ARE.
WAIT! DON'T GO AWAY!
MAC! WHAT'RE YOU DOING NOW?
GIAMBRONE'S FLOWERS
A FEW SECONDS LATER...
SCHMALTZY, I KNOW. BUT FOR YOU...
D'YOU HAVE A FLAME-THROWER, TOO?
A WHAT?
PRIVATE JOKE. ACTUALLY, MAC, THIS'S REALLY SWEET, BUT~I DON'T LIKE CUT FLOWERS. THEY'RE LIKE CORPSES, SLOWLY ROTTING AWAY...
YOU SAY THE PRETTIEST THINGS.
AND YOU KNOW SOMETHING? I DON'T LIKE THEM EITHER. JUST THOUGHT IT'S WHAT WOMEN LIKED.
HEY, I THINK THAT GUY'S LOOKING AT YOU...


GETTING JEALOUS AGAIN?
YOU'RE RIGHT. PLAIN STUPID. ANYWAY, THE POOR GUY'S BLIND. SO EVEN I SHOULDN'T THINK HE'S STARING AT YOU.
BLIND? WHERE?
HE'S GONE.
THERE ARE A LOT OF BLIND MEN IN NEW YORK, SHE THINKS...
...IT COULD'VE BEEN ANYONE...
...ANYONE.
MATT? ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU'VE SUDDENLY GONE ALL... SWEATY.
I'M FINE, KAREN. I THOUGHT I SENSED SOMEONE I USED TO KNOW. GUESS I WAS WRONG.
PERSON I KNEW... NEVER WALKED AROUND WITH FLOWERS IN HER HAND.
NEXT
DAREDEVIL!

SAI'D BAR

POLLY WATSON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

To Bobbie,

I have been an Elektra fan since her first appearance in DAREDEVIL #168 and have anxiously awaited a series that would do her justice. Mike Deodato, Jr. is more than perfect to bring Elektra into the '90s. Kudos to Peter Milligan for making my favorite female assassin humane (to a degree). I hope Deodato and Milligan stay on as a team on ELEKTRA for a long time to come (is forever too long?).

I don't mind her crossing over every once in a while, but please don't overkill Elektra with crossovers. If you do, she will die the same "deaths" as certain other Marvel characters. You have restored my appreciation of Marvel Comics by bringing a story with great art to the otherwise humdrum all-action, no-story arcs involved in a lot of today's books. Don't get me wrong; every once in a while I would love to see Elektra go ballistic in the Marvel Universe, but having her deal with real problems has elevated her from a DAREDEVIL guest star to a rising star of her own!

Thanks, guys!

Curtis Riehl/Conquest Comics
9300 Montana 2193E
El Paso, TX 79925

Thanks, Curtis! If we didn't believe that Elektra has what it takes to be a heroine in her own right, she never would have gotten her own series! She has definitely moved *waaaaaaay* beyond guest or supporting character status. And about that crossover problem, the way things are going for Elektra, everyone else in the Marvel Universe is going to be begging to guest-star in *her* book, not the other way around!

And, while we want to focus on the human side of Elektra's character, we also try our best to make sure she gets the opportunity to let off some steam in a *ballistic* sort of way!

Dear *Sai'd Bar*,

Congratulations on this awesome work of art. I never expected ELEKTRA to be this good, but it's better.

I think the best thing about Elektra is that she is so easy to believe in; she has no super powers or a burning desire to right all the wrongs of the world. At heart, she seems to be normal. First and foremost—before she is a super hero—Elektra is a real person who deals with real life issues such as money problems (a problem no other heroes seem to bother with).

ELEKTRA's supporting cast is second to none. I like Wolverine and Stick, but I prefer it when she interacts with McKinley, King, and especially Nina. It was a work of genius to make Nina a prominent character. Most heroes don't take the consequences of their actions so seriously; just another thing that makes Elektra so different.

Mr. Milligan and Mr. Deodato are a creative team I rank right up there with Lobdell and Bachalo.

Sincerely,
Chris Bell
West Newham Farm
Belsay, Northumberland
England NE20 ODJ

Wow, Chris, we're glad you were so impressed with the quality of the book! Elektra's early years were spent in the lap of luxury, with hardly any cares at all. Later, her life became filled with heartache and rage. *Now*, we figured it would be interesting to show Elektra dealing with real life situations, like the average person! And, as you noted, she's learning that there are consequences to her actions and she has to be responsible for them. So keep reading, because we're taking Elektra to places she's never been before!

Dear Editor,

I've been experimenting with ELEKTRA because I've followed the work of Milligan and Deodato elsewhere. I'm not that high on "thunder thighs" art by far, but Deodato has thankfully kept that to a minimum so far.

Peter Milligan is an odd dog. *Shade the Changing Man* was good, but unusual. His run on *Batman* was experimental and eclectic. I mention this because this is the sort of trap Milligan finds himself in when writing ELEKTRA. The readers, aware of her bloody past, will demand bloodshed. But this is a killer who has been declared legally dead and has left her past behind her (save for the enemies who keep returning to interfere with her attempts to make a new life for herself). Milligan must please both action fans and those who would like to see her lead "the quiet life" and not slip back into barbarism.

After the first two issues, which were shrill and along the line of "give the people what they want and get it over with," Milligan appears to be striking a happy medium. Issue #7 was the most fully realized issue I've seen so far. The brawls and the huge cast of snakes, gila monsters and villains were very well staged and more than one-dimensional. But violence is played as a trap, not a solution, and those who over-indulge must automatically pay a price, as Blacklash did and Elektra has.

I don't think it odd that Elektra has taken up dance. Just another version of yoga or some mental peace technique that most advanced martial artists master. Daredevil? Confronted with his fighting style, Elektra goes to pieces. Physical stuff doesn't matter here. Daredevil represents everything honest that Elektra flushed down the toilet in favor of the "pleasure" of killing her next victim. And remembering that hurts! Her way of solving it—using Mac as a front to confront her fears—well, Mac adores her so much he'll forgive her anything.

Then again, maybe not.

Keep ELEKTRA complicated, and you can lower the violence and get away with it. The theme of this book is redemption, if she can keep it up. And who does Taskmaster normally fight? He's a new face to me.

Charles D. Brown
39 Stockton St.
Brentwood, NY 11717

That was a great analysis, Charles! Elektra is a complicated character, and we're doing our best to approach her story from an angle that makes the most sense. She's got a lot of rage built up inside her, but we think she's dealing with it like a pro! Her dancing is a great distraction from her problems, allowing her to focus some of her energies in a more productive way.

And by the way, Taskmaster's fought just about everyone in the Marvel Universe over the years, but he was most prominently a CAPTAIN AMERICA villain. More recently, however, he fought the merc-with-a-mouth over in issue #2 of DEADPOOL. Well, folks, that's about all the space we've got this month! See ya next issue! Speaking of which...

SAI'D BAR
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NEXT ISSUE:

THE CONFRONTATION YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, AS WE BEGIN A 3-ISSUE TALE, STARRING DAREDEVIL!

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT